

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 784**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Garcia**

February 18, 2005

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An act relating to SAFE teams, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 784, as introduced, Garcia. SAFE teams.

Existing law authorizes the establishment of county and regional Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) teams to reduce violent sexual assault offenses.

This bill would appropriate \$15,000,000 from the General Fund to the Controller for distribution to county sheriffs and city police chiefs for the implementation of county and regional SAFE team programs, as specified. The bill would require entities accepting the funds to report to the Department of Finance regarding the program, as specified, and failing that, to return the funds to the state.

The bill would also set forth the findings and declarations of the Legislature in this regard.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Habitual sexual assault offenders pose a significant risk to
- 4 the welfare and safety of the residents of California.

1 (b) Predatory sex offenders frequently travel to areas outside  
2 of the jurisdictions in which they reside to evade surveillance and  
3 possible arrest by local law enforcement agencies for probation  
4 or parole violations.

5 (c) Recent data shows that approximately 44 percent of sexual  
6 predators are not registering as required under Megan's Law, and  
7 law enforcement officials are unaware of their current location.

8 (d) The Legislature has encouraged the formation of regional  
9 law enforcement task forces consisting of officers and agents  
10 from several law enforcement agencies organized for the explicit  
11 purpose of reducing violent sexual assaults through proactive  
12 surveillance and arrests of habitual sexual offenders.

13 (e) The funding of the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement  
14 (SAFE) Teams is critical to tracking sexually violent predators  
15 and protecting the welfare and safety of Californians.

16 SEC. 2. (a) The sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000)  
17 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Controller  
18 for distribution to county sheriffs for the implementation of  
19 county and regional SAFE team programs pursuant to Chapter  
20 9.7 (commencing with Section 13887) of Title 6 of Part 4 of the  
21 Penal Code.

22 (b) No county may use funds provided pursuant to this act to  
23 supplant any other sources of funding.

24 (c) The funds appropriated by this act shall be allocated by the  
25 Controller for the implementation of county and regional SAFE  
26 team programs pursuant to Chapter 9.7 (commencing with  
27 Section 13887) of Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code.

28 (d) The funds shall be allocated to county sheriffs and city  
29 police chiefs in accordance with the proportionate share of sex  
30 offender registrants residing within a SAFE Team jurisdiction, as  
31 determined by the Department of Justice.

32 (e) By accepting the funds provided by this act, local entities  
33 agree to report in writing to the Department of Finance on or  
34 before August 15, 2006. The Department of Finance shall make  
35 the report available to the Legislature. The report shall include,  
36 but not be limited to, the data measuring the objectives identified  
37 in Section 13887.3 of the Penal Code, and the signature of the  
38 county sheriff, city police chief, special district administrator, or  
39 their designees.

1 (f) Local entities that receive funds pursuant to this act and  
2 that either do not agree to the reporting requirements or do not  
3 report within the specified time shall return the grant money  
4 provided by the Controller within 30 days after the due date of  
5 the report. Any returned funds shall revert to the General Fund.

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